

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Program**

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## ***WHAT LICENSEES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SLPAP's CITATION AND FINE PROGRAM***

The Citation and Fine Program provides SLPAP with a valuable tool for enforcing the licensing law without suspending or revoking the violator's license. Regulations creating the citation and fine component of SLPAP's enforcement program went into effect in 1991. The regulations were amended in 1996 to authorize the executive officer to issue citations and fines for unlicensed practice and to give broader discretion to fine licensed individuals based on the level of the violation.

### ***HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS***

The regulations give SLPAP's executive officer the authority to issue citations and fines ranging from \$100 to \$2,500. Examples of violations range from unlicensed practice, unprofessional conduct, failure to register an aide or RPE with the Program, and false or misleading advertising.

When a violation has been confirmed, the executive officer issues a **citation** stating the section of the law violated and describing the alleged violation. The citation is accompanied by an **order of abatement**, putting the speech-language pathologist or audiologist on notice that he or she must cease conducting the activity constituting the violation.

### ***COMING INTO COMPLIANCE***

Each citation order sets forth a specific time period in which a violator must establish compliance with the law cited. In situations where circumstances beyond the control of the individual cited do not permit correction, an extension of time may be requested. However, any request for an extension of time must be submitted in writing, within the time period set forth on the citation order.

### ***CONTESTING A CITATION***

An individual who has been cited may request an **informal citation review conference** with the executive officer regarding the violations charged in the citation. The request must be submitted in writing within 14 calendar days after service or receipt of the citation. The executive officer will hold an informal conference with the licensee or his or her authorized representative within 30 days of receipt of the written request.

At the conclusion of the informal citation review conference, the executive officer may affirm, modify, or dismiss the citation, fine, or order of abatement. The decision and reasons for the decision will be stated in writing and provided to the licensee within 14 calendar days of the informal conference. Per the regulations, such decisions are considered final.

The licensee also has the right to request a **formal administrative hearing** to contest the citation. If the citation is dismissed after the informal conference, the request for a hearing is considered withdrawn. If the citation is modified, the citation originally issued will be considered withdrawn and a new citation issued. If a licensee requests a hearing for the new citation, the request must be submitted in writing within 30 days.

**INQUIRIES ON THIS PROGRAM SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PROGRAM OFFICE.**